

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 CU-04 H-02 SSO-00 FBOE-00 INR-07

INRE-00 /023 W

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O 290330Z JUL 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6064

UNCLAS PEKING 1421

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, CH, US

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION

REF: STATE 187069

1. ALL AMERICANS THAT WE KNOW ABOUT IN PEKING INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DEL MEMBERS AND USLO STAFF AND FAMILIES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE.

2. SECOND STRONG TREMOR OCCURRED DURING RECEPTION FOR CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION ABOUT 6:30 P.M. ON JULY 28 AT RESIDENCE. THIS SHOCK WAS SHORTER BUT STILL SEVERE AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF AFTERSHOCKS.

3. 16-MEMBER CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION PLUS 15 USLO STAFF AND DEPENDENTS AND MR. AND MRS. RICHARD MAHER OF ST HELENA, CALIFORNIA WERE HOUSED FOR THE NIGHT IN THE RESIDENCE. SEVERAL OTHER FAMILIES WERE HOUSED IN ADJOINING COMPOUND OFFICE BUILDING.

4. SOME OF TALLER DIPLOMATIC APARTMENT BUILDINGS HAVE DEVELOPED CRACKS IN WALLS AND WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT APARTMENTS ON 5TH FLOORS AND ABOVE ARE NOT YET CONSIDERED SAFE. CONSEQUENTLY WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO HOUSE SOME USLO STAFF MEMBERS IN
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RESIDENCE AND OFFICE BUILDING FOR NEXT FEW DAYS.

CHINESE ARE STILL ON ALERT STATUS FOR FURTHER
AFTERSHOCKS, AND MOST OF PEKING'S POPULATION IS
STILL OUT ON STREETS UNDER MAKESHIFT SHELTER FROM
RAIN.

5. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION NOW EXPECTS
TO LEAVE PEKING TODAY, JULY 29, ONE DAY EARLIER THAN
SCHEDULED TO VISIT HSINHSIANG (HONAN), CHENGCHOW, NANKING, YANG-
CHOW, WUHSI AND SHANGHAI. THEY STILL INTEND TO
DEPART CHINA AUGUST 10 AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. WE
WILL REPORT ON THEIR JULY 28 MEETING WITH VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-RUNG SEPARATELY.

6. WE ARE CHECKING INTO WELFARE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
LISTED IN DEPARTMENT'S 187070 AND WILL REPORT BY
SEPARATE CABLE.

7. WE WILL ALSO TRY TO OBTAIN REQUESTED INFORMATION
ABOUT STATE LEGISLATURE DELEGATION VISIT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

8. PLEASE DO GIVE USLO PHONE NUMBER TO RELATIVES
OF AMERICANS IN PEKING WHO NEED A POINT OF CONTACT.
WE WILL TRY TO HELP LOCATE THEM.

9. REQUESTED USLO NOK ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN
SENT BY SEPTTEL.

10. OUR ASSESSMENT OF DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY EARTH-
QUAKES WILL BE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER MESSAGE.
GATES

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